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Transforming and Re-directing Energy, Resources into Development

Corruption Takes Another Victim: Gender Minister booked for “theft, exploitation, and abuse of power”

The Minister of Gender and Development of the Liberian government, Varbah K. Gayfor has been booked for theft, exploitation, and abuse of office by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission,(LACC).



Gender Minister, Varbah K. Gayflor with President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf

According to the New Democratic, when Minister Gayflor was contacted on the charges, she admitted slicing her employees money for unexplained reason but defended her act insisting she acted in accordance with established Civil Service Standards.

The high-profile Gender Minister has been found guilty by the corruption watchdog for “abuse of office official oppression, theft, and illegal disbursement and expenditure of public money”.

The longest-serving cabinet Minister, dating back from the Charles Taylor administration, Gyude Bryant to the Sirleaf administration, appeared before the LACC some time ago on allegations that she took US$23,000.00 from her employees, some of whom have been sacked.

Investigation reveals out of US$22,000.00 amounting to “illegal pooling and endorsement of checks meant for beneficiaries, Minister Gayflor took US$3,000.00 from Ms. Stephenett C. Weah, a former Planning Officer at the Ministry of Gender and Development.

Ms. Weah, in her June 26, 2009 complaint to the LACC, said she earn a monthly allowance of US$200.00 gross but recieve a net of US185.00 after tax. She futher went on to say when she receive her check, Minister Gayflor instructed her to pay the check to the order of Edwin Borbor, the Account Technician at the Ministry for cashing. The complaint further went on to say in return she received only US$50.00 Fas her final pay. The rest of the money went to the Gender Minister.

Mr. Borbor, for his part told the LACC that based on instruction from minister Gayflor, the rest of the money

was reported to his immediate boss Jestina Kollie, Chief Accountant for Disbursement. When asked to confirm if beneficiaries receive full value of their allowances, Mr. Borbor said, no. He said funds are turned over to the Chief Accountant for Disbursement , who then acts who receives what amount.

The Account technician told LACC investigators that he signs for a monthly allowance of US$180.00 but receives only US$60.00 as take home allowance as per instruction from Minister Gayflor.

According to the LACC findings, Minister Gayflor informed the investigation that a communication dated September 4, 2007 from the Civil Service Agency gives her the authority to exercise discretion in the payment of allowances to employees based on function and performance.

The LACC said Minister Gayflor failed to tell t investigation the extent and limitation of her discretion

The LACC investigation found that the general allowance listing that is prepared by the finance section of the Gender Ministry for check preparation to the Finance Ministry for checks preparation shows that Ms. Stephanett C. Weah, former Planning officer makes US200.00 in gross and a check of US180.40 as net allowance after tax.

The LACC said Minister Gayflor has violated sections 12.70 (b) & 15.82 (b) of the Penal Law of the Republic of Liberia and should be charged on the count of official oppression (abuse of power), theft, and illegal expenditure and disbursement of public money

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1. *Daniela* Says:
 June 21, 2012 at 7:23 am

 this one’s very interesting.http://www.amilconvenio.com

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2. *Walizki na kółkach* Says:
 March 20, 2012 at 11:14 pm

 Thanks so much for providing individuals with an extraordinarily terrific opportunity to read articles and blog posts from this blog. It really is very nice plus full of fun for me and my office friends to visit your website minimum three times in one week to see the fresh tips you will have. And lastly, I’m also actually happy with your exceptional tips you serve. Selected 2 areas in this article are particularly the most beneficial I have had.

 Reply
3. *MataZoonath* Says:
 February 20, 2012 at 12:08 pm

Incredible points. Sound arguments. Keep up the great spirit.

Reply

4. *Joseph Cooper* Says:
November 9, 2011 at 7:14 pm

Sad to see a public service in a post war country doing the same thing that lead us to a bloody war. Why we liberian see public office as a chance to steal. Why do we hate our own country so bad? Thanks to the team that rooted such unpatriotic act from the darkness and thanks to the prosecuting team for clean job.

Reply

5. *Sundaygar* Says:
November 7, 2011 at 11:54 am

She is a criminal and needs to be put into jail. It is a shame that a woman can do this after two other women won the prize for uplifting women. Put Varbah behind bars. She loves to wear fine clothes atteire expense for the poor.

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